

Message Text

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43

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SIL-01 COME-00 OPIC-03

LAB-04 AID-05 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 SY-05 /071 W

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P R 241453Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6395

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 1004

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM)

SUBJ: SECRETARY SIMON'S DAMASCUS VISIT: PRESS OPPORTUNITIES

1. NORMALLY PRESS OPPORTUNITIES OCCUR AT AIRPORT
UPON ARRIVAL AND AGAIN JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.
SECRETARY SIMON CAN EXPECT THAT LOCAL STRINGERS FOR
AP, UPI AND VOA WILL BE ON HAND FOR ARRIVAL, IN
ADDITION TO SYRIAN RADIO AND TV AND SYRIAN ARAB
NEWS AGENCY. SECRETARY WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE BRIEF
ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

2. SUGGESTED THEMES TO BE INCLUDED IN OFFICIAL

STATEMENT: (A) IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO
IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL AND
TO BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH EACH ARAB COUNTRY.

(B) RECOGNITION OF INDISPENSIBLE ROLE SYRIA PLAYS
IN SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

(C) U.S. COMMITMENT TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE
IN SYRIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

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3. SECRETARY, IF HE PERMITS QUESTIONS, CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE LEVELS TO SYRIA AND OTHER AREA COUNTRIES. SINCE SYRIAN OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN CUSTOMARILY MONITOR CLOSELY RADIO ISRAEL, WHAT SECRETARY SAYS AND DOES IN ISRAEL JUST PRIOR TO VISITING DAMASCUS WILL BE FRESH IN MINDS OF HIS SYRIAN HOSTS.

4. AP AND UPI STRINGERS CUSTOMARILY REQUEST INTERVIEWS WITH VIP VISITORS. ASSUME PACKED SCHEULE WILL PRECLUDE SUCH INTERVIEWS, AND WILL SO ADVISE CORRESPONDENTS UNLESS SECRETARY ADVISES OTHERWISE.

5. DEPARTURE STATEMENT COULD INCLUDE CHARACTERIZATION OF TALKS HELD WITH SYRIAN OFFICIALS; OTHERWISE, THEMES LISTED ABOVE HOLD.
PELLETREAU

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